

Eight years ago, Laura and I left our home in Texas to come to Washington. Through two terms in the White House, we have been blessed by your kind words and generous prayers. We have been inspired by those of you who reach out to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, and care for the sick. We have been moved by the courage and devotion of those of you who wear the uniform. Serving as your President has been an incredible honor.

Like every individual who has held this office before me, I have experienced setbacks. There are things I would do differently if given the chance. Yet I've always acted with the best interests of our country in mind. I have followed my conscience and done what I thought was right. You may not agree with some tough decisions I have made, but I hope you can agree that I was willing to make the tough decisions.

The decades ahead will bring more hard choices for our country, and there are some guiding principles that should shape our course. While our Nation is safer than it was 7 years ago, the gravest threat to our people remains another terrorist attack. Our enemies are patient and determined to strike again. America did nothing to seek or deserve this conflict. But we have been given solemn responsibilities, and we must meet them. We must resist complacency. We must keep our resolve, and we must never let down our guard.

At the same time, we must continue to engage the world with confidence and clear purpose. In the face of threats from abroad, it can be tempting to seek comfort by turning inward. But we must reject isolationism and its companion, protectionism. Retreating behind our borders would only invite danger. In the 21st century, security and prosperity at home depend on the expansion of liberty abroad. If America does not lead the cause of freedom, that cause will not be led.

As we address these challenges and others we cannot foresee today, America must maintain our moral clarity. I've often spoken to you about good and evil. This has made some uncomfortable. But good and evil are present in this world, and between the two there can be no compromise. Murdering the innocent to advance an ideology is wrong

every time, everywhere. Freeing people from oppression and despair is eternally right. This Nation must continue to speak out for justice and truth. We must always be willing to act in their defense and to advance the cause of peace.

Eight years ago, on a cold January morning, I stood on the steps of the United States Capitol, placed my hand on the Bible, and swore a sacred oath to defend our people and our Constitution. On that day, I spoke of "our Nation's grand story of courage and its simple dream of dignity." Next week, my term of service will come to an end, but that story and that dream will continue.

On Tuesday, Laura and I will join all Americans in offering our best wishes to President Obama, his wife Michelle, and their two beautiful girls. And later that day, we will return to the love of family and friends in Texas. I will depart office proud of my administration's record, and I will spend the rest of my life grateful for the opportunity to have served as President of the greatest Nation on Earth.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:30 a.m. on January 16 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 17. In his address, the President referred to Malia and Natasha "Sasha" Obama, daughters of President-elect Obama. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Statement on the Selection of Alan Lowe as Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum**

*January 19, 2009*

We are very pleased that Alan Lowe has been selected by the National Archives and Records Administration as the director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Alan is a talented and experienced professional and will be an outstanding director of the Library. We look forward to working with him and the National Archives to

build a world-class Presidential library and museum that will be an important resource for scholars and the general public.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

#### ***January 17***

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

#### ***January 18***

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

#### ***January 19***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he had several telephone conversations with current and former world leaders.

In the afternoon, on the State Floor, the President and former President George H.W. Bush participated in an interview with historian Richard Norton Smith.

#### ***January 20***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, on the North Portico, he and Mrs. Bush welcomed President-elect Barack Obama and his wife Michelle. Then, in the Blue Room, they had coffee with

President-elect Obama and Mrs. Obama, Vice President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and his wife Jill, and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies leadership.

Later in the morning, at the U.S. Capitol, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the swearing-in ceremony for President-elect Barack Obama.

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### **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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### **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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NOTE: No additional items were released by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period covered by this issue.

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### **Acts Approved by the President**

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NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.